

What is claimed is:

1. A method for remotely activating an audible alert mode for a personal communication device, comprising:
  - sending a signal to the personal communication device for remotely switching to an audible alert mode; and
  - switching from an inaudible alert mode to an audible alert mode in response to the signal.
2. The method for remotely activating an audible alert mode for a personal communication device of claim 1, wherein the signal is sent by a subscriber system to the personal communication device.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a user's spoken command.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a signal to the personal communication device for remotely selecting an audible alert mode is initiated by calling a subscriber dial-up system.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a signal to the personal communication device for remotely selecting an audible alert mode is initiated by making a request through an operator assisted system.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein sending a signal to the personal communication device for remotely selecting an audible alert mode is initiated by accessing a subscriber system over the Internet.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the operator is automated.
8. A method for remote configuration of the alert mode of a personal communication device, comprising:
  - sending a wireless alert mode configuration signal to the personal communication device;

receiving the wireless alert mode configuration signal by the personal communication device;

configuring the alert mode of the personal communication device in response to the wireless configuration signal.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the wireless alert mode configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device by a subscriber service.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the wireless alert mode configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device by an operator.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the wireless alert mode configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device in response to a selection made in a subscriber system.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the alert mode configuration is changed from an inaudible alert mode to an audible alert mode.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the wireless alert mode configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device automatically when it is in a particular location.

14. A method for remote configuration of an alert mode of a personal communication device, comprising:

sending a wireless configuration signal to the personal communication device for reconfiguring the alert mode of the personal communication device;

receiving the wireless reconfiguration signal by the personal communication device;

reconfiguring the alert mode of the personal communication device in response to the wireless configuration signal.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the wireless configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device by a subscriber service.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the wireless configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device by an operator.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the wireless configuration signal is sent to the personal communication device in response to a selection made in a subscriber system.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the alert mode is reconfigured from an inaudible alert mode to an audible alert mode.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the alert mode is configured to a siren or alarm.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the siren or alarm is configured to annunciate until a power supply of the personal communication device is exhausted.

21. A portable communication device, comprising:  
a wireless receiver for receiving communication signals;  
an audible annunciator that provides alert sounds in response to one or more signals received by the wireless receiver;  
a mode selector that selects between a plurality of alert modes;  
wherein the alert modes may be remotely selected.

22. A portable communication device, comprising:  
a wireless transceiver for sending and receiving communication signals;  
an audible annunciator that provides alert sounds in response to one or more signals received by the wireless transceiver;  
a mode selector that selects between a plurality of alert modes;  
wherein the alert modes may be remotely selected.

23. A portable communication device, comprising:  
a receiver for receiving wireless communications;  
an annunciator for providing an audible alert when a communication is

received; and

a mode selector that selects between a plurality of alert modes comprising an audible alert mode and an inaudible alert mode, wherein an alert mode may be selected in response to a wireless signal.

24. A portable communication device, comprising:

a wireless receiver;

an annunciator for providing an alert sound in response to a communication received by the wireless receiver;

a mode selector for selecting between a plurality of alert modes wherein the mode may be remotely selected.

25. The portable communication device of claim 24 wherein the alert mode may be remotely selected by telephone.

26. The portable communication device of claim 24 wherein the alert mode may be remotely selected by a wireless signal.

27. A portable communication device, comprising:

an audible annunciator;

a selector for selective deactivation of the audible annunciator in response to a user command, wherein the audible annunciator may be remotely reactivated.

28. The personal communication device of claim 27 wherein the audible annunciator may be reactivated by an operator.

29. The personal communication device of claim 27 wherein the audible annunciator may be reactivated by a voicemail system.

30. The personal communication device of claim 27 wherein the audible annunciator may be deactivated by an operator.

31. The personal communication device of claim 27 wherein the audible annunciator may be deactivated by a voicemail system.

32. A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of personal communication devices, wherein one or more of the personal communication devices comprises a transducer for providing an alert sound in response to a communication received by the wireless transceiver, a mode selector for switching between a plurality of alert modes wherein the mode selector may be remotely switched in response to a wireless alert mode select signal; and

a subscriber service that provides wireless alert mode select signals.

33. A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of personal communication devices, wherein one or more of the personal communication devices comprises a transducer for providing alert sounds, and further comprises a mode selector for switching between a plurality of alert modes, wherein the mode selector may be remotely switched in response to a wireless alert mode select signal; and

a wireless transmitter that provides wireless alert mode select signals to one or more of the personal communication devices.

34. The wireless communication system of claim 33 wherein the wireless transmitter is configured to provide the wireless alert mode select signals to the plurality of personal communication devices when they enter a particular location.

35. The wireless communication system of claim 33 wherein the wireless alert mode select signals override the alert mode selected by the user while the personal communication device is at the particular location.

36. The wireless communication system of claim 33 wherein the wireless alert mode select signals are provided by inductive or capacitive coupling.